

*Representative*  
**PAT SULLIVAN**

## Health care: lowering costs

One of the greatest challenges for families, businesses and the state budget is the rising costs of health care. Over the past two years we have made a commitment to find solutions to this growing problem.

Cover all Kids: We expanded health care coverage for 80,000 additional children, building on our commitment to have every child covered by 2010.



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*Representative*  
**PAT SULLIVAN** **47th District Session in Review**

PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600



## Other highlights

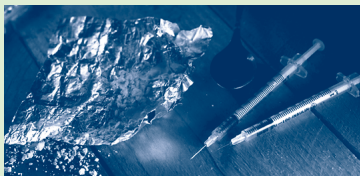
- **Helping our soldiers:** I sponsored legislation that would help members of the Washington National Guard obtain the maximum life insurance benefit they are allowed by paying their premiums while they are deployed overseas. It is my hope that they will not need to use this extra benefit, but a military family dealing with a personal tragedy shouldn't have to face a financial crisis as a result.
- We have a moral duty to respect and help veterans when they return home from combat zones. I voted for a new \$2 million Veterans Innovations Program to offer two kinds of crucial help: (1) The Defenders Fund to provide one-time grants of up to \$500 to help returning reservists and National Guard troops overcome challenges in employment, education, housing and health care; and (2) A grant program to help local communities tailor needed services to veterans in their home towns.



- **Reducing Property Taxes for Seniors:** I voted to reduce interest rates paid by senior citizens and disabled retirees in Washington's property-tax deferral program. Interest rates on deferred property-taxes will drop from eight percent to five percent, helping seniors stay in their homes.



- **Fighting Meth:** Two new laws restrict access to some of the ingredients used to "cook" meth. A similar law in Oklahoma reduced meth lab incidents by 80 percent.



## 47th District Session in Review

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**PAT SULLIVAN**

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Dear Neighbor,

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent the residents of the 47th District these past two years. It's been an honor I have taken very seriously and I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish.

The 2006 session has come and gone but my priorities remain the same. We took steps to strengthen our education system and improve access to health care, and we found new and innovative ways to improve our economy.

In addition, we passed a budget that showed great fiscal restraint by saving \$2 for every \$1 spent – helping to pay down future debts.

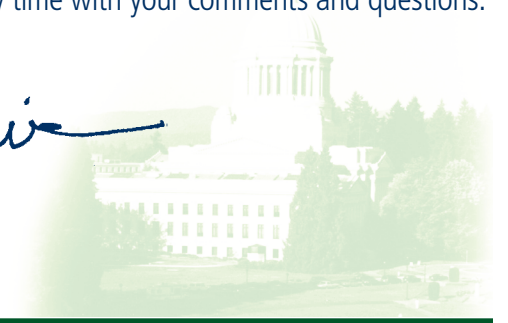
Finally, with the help of prosecutors and police, we passed some of the strictest sex offender laws in the nation – tough, smart laws that will help us catch and convict more sex offenders, keeping them off of our streets and away from our children.

This newsletter summarizes some of the major issues I have worked on while in Olympia these past two years. I want to thank all of you who took the time to fill out the education questionnaire that was included in my previous newsletter. Your input was valued very much and was very helpful in shaping what we did in Olympia this past year.

Thank you again for allowing me to represent you in Olympia. Please don't hesitate to contact me at any time with your comments and questions.

Sincerely,

Pat Sullivan  
State Representative  
47th District



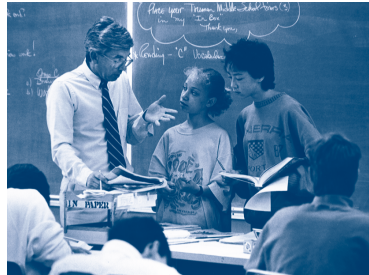


# 47th District Session in Review

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## Education: Building a foundation for success

### *Investing in Children:*



Over the past two years the legislature has made a tremendous investment in our schools. In the 2005-07 operating budget the legislature respected the will of the voters, fully funding Initiatives 728 (reducing class sizes) and 732 (improving teacher pay).

A record investment of \$600 million will fund emergency repairs, modernization and new construction for K-12 schools throughout the state. This money includes almost \$4.5 million for Mill Creek Middle School.

Higher education received a tremendous boost as we funded 7,900 new enrollment slots in both 2-year and 4-year programs. Locally, we received more than \$28 million for Green River Community College.

Overall, the 2005-07 Legislature increased state funding for Washington's public schools by \$1.7 billion – about \$1,796 per student.

### *Maintaining high educational standards:*



Washington's students embarked on a historic journey this year. For the first time, the class of 2008 must pass all three sections – math, reading and writing – of the statewide Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) in order to graduate. A new science requirement is added in 2010.

With these new graduation requirements come the concerns of many parents over how schools are preparing students to meet these high standards. This session we devoted many hours in the Education Committee trying to find a solution to this problem.

One measure I sponsored this session, which passed in its Senate form, instructs the Washington State Institute for Public Policy to evaluate WASL alternatives and make recommendations to the Legislature by December of this year. Any



alternative must maintain high standards for our students so we can compete in the global market.

Some of the WASL alternatives we did pass allow students who fail the WASL to still graduate by getting good enough grades, scoring well on other standardized tests, completing a vocational program or putting together a portfolio of approved work to be judged.

## Budgets: Showing fiscal restraint and investing for the future

At the beginning of this session I voiced my support for fiscal restraint and I'm happy to report this year's budget shows exactly that. The Legislature saved \$2 for every \$1 spent, dedicating over \$900 million to help pay off future costs associated with our state's pension system, education funding, and health care programs.

This budget builds on the Priorities of Government budgeting process from last year, with the aim of increasing government accountability. Working with our current and voter-approved performance audit laws, I think this year's budget will help create stability for years to come.

## Protecting Families: Making sure our children are safe

As the father of three daughters, the safety and well-being of our children has been my top priority in Olympia. I sponsored numerous pieces of legislation this session to further protect our families by giving prosecutors and law enforcement officers the resources they need to catch and convict Washington's most dangerous sex offenders. Some of these bills create:

- Mandatory 25-years-to-life sentences for child rape or molestation in the first degree committed by strangers or teachers, coaches and other trusted authority figures.
- Round-the-clock GPS monitoring of the worst sex offenders.
- The crime of communicating with a minor through email or a computer for immoral purposes.

We also designated the possession of child pornography as a sex offense.

All of these measures had the support of police officers, prosecutors and victims' advocates, and gives Washington some of the toughest laws in the country.



## Jobs: Creating a positive business environment

Although our economy has been on the rise we need to find new and innovative ways of attracting and retaining jobs in Washington.

### *Attracting New Businesses*

I sponsored a pilot project that will give city, county and other local governments a new tool to help attract and retain businesses. The project, known as LIFT (Local Infrastructure Financing Tool), allows governments to capture a portion of new and future sales, property and excise tax revenue coming into a designated area – such as money from increased commerce or construction – and to finance a bond against those future revenues.

This simply means that local cities such as Covington, Kent or Auburn can get bonds to finance the building of roads, sewer and other construction that businesses desire – without raising taxes.



### *Job development fund*

I was proud to be a sponsor of the Job Development Fund that provides grants to cities, towns and other government entities for projects that create local jobs, stimulate economic development, and promote community growth. This program is a win-win for business and the state. By helping local government the state can ensure that Washington is truly committed to attracting and retaining businesses.

